

(Chapter Outline)

This chapter, following the introductory chapter describing the contemporary aspect of the county at large, will be preponderantly factual. The chapter is designed to be 4,000-5,000 words in length, and to treat of the geography, geology, animal and plant life and related topics in a clear, non-technical fashion for the consumption of the average reader. For the purpose of gathering material on this chapter, the following sub-topics should be used as guides and treated individually within their spheres:

1. The Surface of the Earth.

- a. Geographic Placement of the County. Relation to the rest of the state, to the other counties allied through economic or social brotherhood; latitude and longitude, and incidental facts pertaining to this placement; boundary establishment and reasons for it; or method of arriving at boundaries.
- b. Climate. General summary of type of climate; including material on precipitation; rainfall and snowfall statistics, facts concerning great floods, storms, blizzards, etc., general weather types encountered in daily life of county, and effects of county's climate on agriculture or industry, if any.
- c. Topographic Variations. Mountains, ridges, valleys, plateaus, how they got their names; statistics concerning height or extent; practical uses to which adapted; future proposed uses.
- d. Rivers and Streams. Their origin, length, source of their names, their economic value.

2. Plant and Animal Life.

- a. Plant Life. The kinds and extent of flowering plants; the predominant types; their uses, if any; the kinds of trees found in the county, genus and species; the predominant growths, and places where found; the cycle of floral beauty from spring to fall, in the order of blossoming.
- b. Animal Life. The wild animals found; kinds and habitat; the domestic animals found to thrive in the county; the bird life; the reptiles.
- c. Game and Fish. The possibilities for hunter and fisherman.

3. The Scenic Sights.

Short descriptive passages about the scenic wonders, natural beauties, or freaks of nature which attract visitors; their names and the origin of these names; their locations; their descriptions; something of their history, and any tales told in connection with them.

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Conservation.

All conservation activities within the county; flood control; erosion control; wild life refuges; restocking of streams; mine sealing; acid elimination; reforestation; land terracing; forest fire prevention; enforcement of game laws; transformation of waste or cut-over land into state parks and refuges; development of outdoor recreation possibilities.

5. Natural Resources.

The emphasis here would be on contemporary natural resources, viewed as wealth. The production and sale of these will be treated in a later chapter; here it is desired only to give treatment of their size, variety and extent.

- a. Timber. Kinds of marketable timber; uses possible for it; extent of the stands, location of them; their accessibility; their present owners.
- b. Coal. Amount and grade in the county; production possible, number and location of seams; estimated value of the coal.
- c. Gas, Oil, Salt and Their By-Products. Same as above.
- d. Limestone, Sand, Gravel, Slate, and Building Materials. Same as above.

The last section of this chapter; that on natural resources, is designed to give the reader an idea of the extent, variety, placement, and possible utility of the resources now existing. The treatment of the exploitation of these resources, including the history of this exploitation and the present development, will be handled in a later chapter--Chapter VII, Commerce and Industry. Chapter III is designed to end where Chapter VII can begin.

THE HISTORY OF POCAHONTAS COUNTY

CHAPTER IV

THE PEOPLE

(Chapter Questions)

1. The Aborigines, Mound Builders, if Any, and Their Predecessors.

- a. Their Traces, etc. (Covered by questions under b)
- b. Their Lives and Heritage.

What evidences of pre-Indian life has been found within your county border? This must be detailed, giving the location of the find, the items found, how their identity was established, by whom, and under what auspices. If any pictures are available, please send them in. Who were these earliest residents? How long did they live here? Where did they come from? How did they disappear? Who replaced them? Are any stories told of references by the Indians to these earlier people? What is known of their early life by the relics found? Who first discovered the relics? Who first became interested in studying them? Are there any bizarre facts told about the early discovery of these remains of an earlier people, or about the knowledge of the people the remains reveal?

2. The Red Men.

- a. The Tribes Who here Resided. (Covered by questions under b)
- b. Latter Years of Indian Control, and Their Heritage to the Present.

- (1) Make a map depicting Indian trails across Pocahontas County territory, noting tribes using these trails, and last recorded or known date used. Where were the camps located along these trails? What natural conditions resulted in the choice of camp sites? What relics have been recovered at the sites or elsewhere in the county? What evidences now remain of early Indian occupation of the county?
- (2) How long did the Indians remain in the county each year? What did they come for? Were there any permanent Indian residents?
- (3) Give accurate picture of Indian village life as shown by relics and early writings. How did the Indians live? What type of homes. What food? How did they obtain the food? What utensils were used?
- (4) What Indian forts were built in the county? How were they constructed? Diagram one, showing original form and present remains. Are there other relics of forts? If so, describe and locate. Who lived in them? What tribes? Any names of individuals if known. Might not these forts have been built by white settlers? How is Indian construction proven?
- (5) Are there any legends of Indian tribes or personages known to the older residents of the county? What can you find in writings of the early settlers left to their present descendants?

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- (6) Describe in detail the lives of the first known scouts. Where did they come from, why? Where did they live in the county? Who are their present descendants? What Indian fights did they have and how many Indians are they said to have killed? (Note: This subject must be covered thoroughly; gather all available within the county but known to residents; gather stories that have been handed down from father to son. Uncover every available scrap of data.)
- (7) Did the early settlers take the Indians' hunting grounds from them? For what other reasons were the Indians angry at the whites, if they were? Why did the whites kill the Indians (specific reasons in known cases here)?
- (8) What is known of Cornstalk or other famous chiefs in relation to the county? Did the Indians ever have inter-tribal wars on Mineral soil?
- (9) Name any and all whites killed by Indians, and give the reasons. What were the whites doing to the Indians that provoked them to attack? Give locations of killings. All information obtainable on this subject.
- (10) Give all Indian names now used in the county, either as names of persons common to the families of early settlers, or of places. Give meaning of each and the reason for its application to present bearer.
- (11) Did the Indians intermarry with the whites? Are there any descendants now living of such mixed blood? Were the Indians ever enslaved by the whites?
- (12) What were Indian sympathies during the Revolutionary War? The War of 1812? Did any battles or skirmishes occur within the county? Were there any Indians remaining in the county after 1860? Did the settlers adopt any Indian manners or customs, or ways of doing things. Name and describe any such. Check date of last visit by Indians to county. Why did they not come back? Describe these last Indians as to physical appearance, social habits, and relationship with whites.
- (13) The map of Indian trails should show camp sites, routes (with names of mountains and streams, and present location of any large villages as well as any early settlements along it with dates settled).

3. The First White Settlers.

- a. The Forerunners. List early visitors to Pocahontas. Who first surveyed the county? Who first mentions the region, its attractions? Why did the trappers choose this section? What parts of the county were used? Which first? What game was sought? Where was it sold? Where did early trappers and hunters live before coming to county? Where during the days they hunted, trapped? Were their residences in an adjoining county? Did they take Indian hunting territory and attempt to drive out the redskins, or did they share the territory with friendly Indians? Were their tales of the region responsible for settlement by permanent residents? Did they drive out the Indians before permanent settlement was made?